

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3, 7-8, 10-29, 45, 47-61, 68-69, 109-110, 127-135 and 151 are currently pending in the application. Claims 30-34, 112 and 136-138 have been withdrawn from consideration in response to a restriction requirement with traverse. Claims 4-6, 9, 35-44, 46, 62-67, 70-108, 111, 113-126, 139-150 and 152 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1-3, 7-8, 10-29, 45, 47-61, 68-69, 109-110, 127-135 and 151 were rejected in the Office Action mailed October 22, 2009 (hereinafter referred to as "Office Action").

This amendment is being submitted with a Request for Continued Examination and a petition for a three month extension of time to extend the due date from January 22, 2010 to April 22, 2010. A credit card authorization is being submitted herewith to pay the required fees. The Director is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees(s) or underpayments of fee(s) under 37. C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 to Deposit Account 50-4863. In view of the following remarks and amendments, applicants respectfully request a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Election/Restriction

The status of claim 110 has been corrected to be "currently amended" instead of "withdrawn."

Claim Objections

The Office Action objected to claim 110 because the claim should recite a computer readable storage medium. Applicants respectfully submit the foregoing amendments and change in the status identifier correct the informalities listed in the Office Action. As a result, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to claim 110.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The Office Action rejected claims 1-3, 7-8, 10-29, 45, 47-61, 68-69, 109, 127-135 and 151 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. Applicants respectfully submit the foregoing amendments correct the language objected to in the Office Action. As a result, applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-3, 7-8, 10-29, 45, 47-61, 68-69, 109, 127-135 and 151, as amended, are not indefinite and are, therefore, allowable under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections to claims 1-3, 7-8, 10-29, 45, 47-61, 68-69, 109, 127-135 and 151.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action rejected claims 1-3, 7-8, 10-15, 17-29, 47-58, 109-110 and 151 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,875,446) in view of Kennedy et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,269,364). Claim 28 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown in view of Kennedy and Ellis, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,654,736). Claims 9-14, 17-20, 24-25 and 110 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown in view of Kennedy, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,269,364). Claims 16, 26, 59-61, 64, 68 and 69 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown in view of Kennedy and Adamic et al. (U.S. Published Patent Application 2003/0186243). Claim 45 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown in view of Kennedy and Hong, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,764,799). Claims 127-130 and 132-135 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Adamic in view of Brown and Kennedy. Claim 131 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Adamic in view of Brown, Kennedy and Deligne et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,314,399). Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-3, 7-8, 10-29, 45, 47-61, 68-69, 109-110, 127-135 and 151, as amended, are patentable over the cited references for at least the reasons described below.

Claims 1, 109, 127 and 151

First, applicants respectfully submit that the cited references, either alone or in combination, do not disclose, teach or suggest “a knowledge discovery engine where relationships between two or more integrated data objects within the Object-Relationship Database are . . . numerically evaluated to identify previously unknown relationships between the data objects where no link previously existed” as recited in claims 1, 109, 127 and 151. Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references, such as Brown, group and rank relevant objects based on known relationships using existing links. As a result, claims 1, 109, 127 and 151, as amended, are allowable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Second, applicants respectfully submit that the cited references, either alone or in combination, do not disclose, teach or suggest “a knowledge discovery engine where relationships between two or more data objects within the Object-Relationship Database are: (a) identified as a direct relationship or an indirect relationship, (b) retrieved, (c) grouped into categories selected from the group consisting of a positive effect, a negative effect, a physical association and a logical association, (d) ranked based on a relative strength of the identified relationship, (e) filtered by lexical processing, and (f) numerically evaluated to identify previously unknown relationships between the objects where no link previously existed” wherein the data objects are “a noun, a verb, an adjective, an adverb, a phrase, a sentence, a symbol or a numeric character” as recited in claims 1, 109, 127 and 151, as amended. For example the objects disclosed in Brown are defined as: “Hypermedia objects 140 are items such as books, articles, reports, pictures, movies, or recordings that contain text, images, video, audio, or any other multimedia

object and/or information. One or more hypermedia objects are stored on one or more computers in the environment.” (col. 6, lines 26-30). Applicants respectfully submit that although Brown’s objects may contain the data objects recited in claims 1, 109, 127 and 151, Brown does not disclose, teach or suggest performing all of the recited steps on “a noun, a verb, an adjective, an adverb, a phrase, a sentence, a symbol or a numeric character.” The other cited references do not cure this deficiency. As a result, claims 1, 109, 127 and 151, as amended, are allowable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

For at least the reasons stated above, applicants respectfully submit the cited references, either alone or in combination, do not disclose, teach or suggest every element recited in claims 1, 109, 127 and 151, as amended. Claims 1, 109, 127 and 151 are, therefore, allowable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1, 109, 127 and 151 be withdrawn.

Claims 2-3, 7-8, 10, 14-15, 17-29, 47-58, 110 128-130 and 132-135

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-3, 7-8, 10, 14-15, 17-29, 47-58, 110 128-130 and 132-135 depend from claims 1, 109 and 127 which are allowable for the reasons stated above, and further distinguish over the cited references. Claims 2-3, 7-8, 10, 14-15, 17-29, 47-58, 110, 128-130 and 132-135 are, therefore, allowable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 2-3, 7-8, 10, 14-15, 17-29, 47-58, 110, 128-130 and 132-135 be withdrawn.

With respect to claim 18, applicants respectfully submit that Kennedy does not disclose, teach or suggest identifying capitalizations and patterns for words because it is not required to eliminate the duplicate response to a query, which is the stated purpose of Kennedy. As a result, applicants respectfully submit that claims 51-52 are allowable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

With respect to claims 19-20 and 24, applicants respectfully submit that Kennedy does not disclose, teach or suggest the use of an acronym resolving algorithm because it is not required to eliminate the duplicate response to a query, which is the stated purpose of Kennedy. As a result, applicants respectfully submit that claims 19-20 and 24 are allowable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

With respect to claims 51-52, applicants respectfully submit that Brown does not recompute an object network or recompute results as recited in claims 51-52. The cited portions of Brown describe iterations to determine the levels of a hierarchy, which is not recomputing an object network or recomputing results. As a result, applicants respectfully submit that claims 51-52 are allowable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Conclusion

For the reasons set forth above, applicants respectfully request reconsideration by the examiner and withdrawal of the rejections. Applicants submit that claims 1-3, 7-8,

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10-29, 45, 47-61, 68-69, 109-110, 127-135 and 151, as amended, are fully patentable. Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the examiner has any questions or comments, or if further clarification is required, it is requested that the examiner contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,
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